

**James Monroe to Thomas Jefferson, September 3,  
1793, from Thomas Jefferson and James Monroe  
Correspondence, Transcribed and Edited by Gerard W.  
Gawalt, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress**

**James Monroe to Thomas Jefferson**

Staunton Sepr. 3. 1793.

Dear Sir

I parted from Mr. Madison three days past at my house. He was so kind as shew me yr. letter to him by Mr. Randolph. The state into which the conduct of an indiscreet man on the one part, and some very wicked men on the other, has thrown us in respect to France fills me with extreme concern. That he shod. not have implicitly followed yr. advice in all the affrs. of his country is to me astonishing, as well from yr. known attachment to that nation & her cause as his having mentioned that fact in Richmond on his way to Phila. with respect to him he must follow the fortune he has carved out for himself. It remains for us to prevent the ill effects which menace us from that quarter, by appraising France by every possible explanation &c in our power; & counteracting at home the views of the party who have brought the subject to the publick view.

That the object of this party is to separate us from France & ultimately unite us with Engld. is what I am well assured of-and that the certificate of Messrs. Jay & King was concocted at Phila. as the means of bringing the subject before the publick is likewise what I believe. Tis likewise to be presumed that they had made their arrangements for taking the subject up through out the continent so as to give the proceeding a face

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that would be highly disgusting to France. I consider the whole however as a mere trick & which woud ultimately recoil on the authors of it. The people will soon perceive they have been abused & hurried into excesses they will be ashamed of as soon as they become cool.

The party in Richmond was soon set in motion, & from what I have understood here have reason to believe they mean to produce the most extensive effect they are capable of. Mr. Marshall had written G. Jones on the subject & the first appearances threatened the most furious attack on the French minister, the pressure to it was ended in a manner honorable to the parties concerned (the mention of that character alone excepted) & he is only classed with Messrs. Jay & King. I am persuaded the subject will likewise be taken up in Albemarle & other parts of the State, and apprehend there is some danger these latter gentn. may be presented by the Grand jury for their improper interference in the affrs. of the Executive. Satisfied I am that in a publick discussion, the sense of the community will be found, in the proportion of 9 to 1 in favor of the French cause & in reprobation of any effort to lessen its merits & interest here. I doubt not yr. sense of the conduct of the individual is confined to a very narrow circle, for the experiment of seperating him from his country, in every view, is of that delicate nature, that is consequences cannot be foreseen. Many here, & since his letter, & the certificate alluded to have been seen, applaud him for his zeal in pressing the cause of his country. But if they believed that you really thot. Him culpable, it would create a despondence that would complete the triumph of the enemies to his country & her cause.

I have been sensible that yr. departure, & espec-

-ally since the publick mind has been so much agitated, wod. be severely felt & vehemently opposed by a particular character. If I mistake not he fears to be left exposed, in the society of those who would be left behind with him after yr. departure. If yr. opinions had more weight upon the questions agitated, I shod. believe the desire for yr. continuance was not dictated by self love. Permit me to add that I consider yr. situation, the most

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important & interesting that can be conceived. Its importance is felt by the opposit party in such a degree that altho in one view they wod. be gratified by yr. retreat, yet they fear greater injury to themselves, from that event than yr. continuance, and therefore wish it. They know the solidity of yr. principles founded on reason & reflection, and in case the republican party shod. pass that boundary, count upon yr. restraining them, because they well know that that party repose an unlimited confidence in you. Yr. friends indeed will be happy in yr. continuance because they will be greatly aided by yr. councils. I write you in great hurry, not having indeed leasure to read it over, so that you will find an apology for any impropriety it may contain, knowing the sincerity with which I am yr. affectionate friend and servantJas. Monroe

RC (Jefferson Papers, Library of Congress).